

County Line

News from the Government Offices of

Lumpkin County, Georgia

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Help! I've Fallen and...They Can't Get In!

Medical alarms, whether wired in to the home or worn on the wrist, can help save lives by calling for help when ill or injured people can't get to the phone to dial 911. But what if paramedics arrive to find the home all locked up? Should they make an emergency entry? Maybe an error sent them to the wrong address. Maybe it was a false alarm. How can they make the best decision when the resident, who may or may not actually be in the home, can't respond?

Lumpkin County Emergency Medical Services director Don Seabolt says communication is the best answer, and he's encouraging people with medical alarms to call him personally—before they have a medical emergency. If that includes you, he'll want to get some information about your specific medical needs and concerns. He will also want to get names and phone numbers for emergency contact people, preferably relatives, or "keyholders," who can unlock your door, direct emergency responders to a hidden key on the premises or even give paramedics permission to do an emergency entry. And he urges residents with alarms to keep in touch with him. Call back to update your emergency file if there's a change in your medical status or if you discontinue the alarm service. Don Seabolt can be reached at 706-864-9180. Please don't put this of



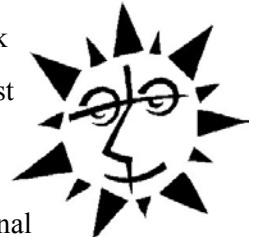
Capt. McDonald to Meet Mechanicsville Road

It's hard to visualize without the benefit of a bird's eye view, but Capt. McDonald Road off 52 East soon will connect with Mechanicsville Road off Morrison Moore Parkway, now the only way into Yahoola Creek Park. The roads will meet at a pair of bridges over Yahoola Creek, and the main park entrance will be at 52E and Capt. McDonald Road. Some 70% of the entrance prep work is complete, thanks to \$60,000 in Department of Transportation funds secured by Lumpkin County's DOT liaison Charles Trammell. The goal: finishing the entry, widening of the 1.5 mile stretch of Capt. McDonald Road leading into the park and the new parking areas in time for Fall Parks and Recreation programs.



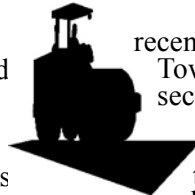
Summer Fun at Parks and Rec

Registration is underway now for Lumpkin County Park and Recreation Summer Day Camp, to be held 8am to 6pm weekdays from June 4 through July 27. Kids in first through eighth grades get together at the Community Center for a variety of activities, including games, arts and crafts, outdoor play in the park, swimming, movies and weekly field trips. What to budget: \$15 one-time registration fee and \$55 per week plus the cost of optional field trips. The community swimming pool opens May 26. Hours are noon to 6pm daily, except Sundays, 1pm – 5pm. \$3 a person for everyone over 3 years old. Ask about season passes, swimming lessons and private party pool rentals. Watch for information on summer sports camps co-hosted by Park & Rec and Lumpkin County High School. Flyers will go home with school kids, and details will be listed in The Dahlonega Nugget. Call the Parks & Recreation Department at 706-864-3622 for more information on activities for kids this summer.



Fixing Frogtown Road

After years of patching to hold together a 1.5 mile stretch of potholes and cracks on Frogtown Road, the Lumpkin County Roads Department has received the go-ahead to completely overlay the entire section of—shall we say, overmaintained—road with fresh asphalt. The most



recent effort to patch the road from Town Creek Church Road to the newer section of Frogtown Road suffered "tacking" problems when the bonding agent failed to properly seal the old and new layers. Each solution created a new problem until the public works director and Board of Commissioners reviewed cost factors and the decision was made to re-pave the road. The roads department may be able to save money on the project by purchasing the materials and contracting out the labor. Public works director Eddy Harris says the roadwork should be done within the next few months.



Watering Restrictions Tightened

Thanks to ongoing—and worsening—drought conditions across the state, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has tightened restrictions on outdoor watering for public water system customers. The current Level Two drought response permits outdoor watering only between the hours of midnight and 10am and only on designated days, according to a schedule based on street addresses. Residents whose addresses are even numbers may water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; those whose addresses are odd numbers may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. The restrictions are needed to help conserve water for the typically dry summer months and could be tightened more in the future. Tip: Focus any outdoor watering on more expensive shrubs and trees that would be costly to replace. Established grass and annuals can often "weather" the drought without extra watering. Check out www.conservewatergeorgia.net for water-saving ideas.

Can I Play, Too?

Sign-up for adult softball will begin May 14 at the Parks & Recreation Community Center. There will be co-ed, men's and church leagues. Call 706-864-2196 for details.



PAWS: Pet Lost & Found and More

Is your dog or cat lost or missing? The first place to look for it is the PAWS Humane Society, located at the Lumpkin County Animal Shelter on Red Oak Flats Road. Reuniting lost pets with their loving owners is one of PAWS' main missions in our community. PAWS is also the place to go if you find a lost or abandoned animal or if you'd like to adopt a one of the many wonderful dogs, cats, puppies or kittens who pass through the shelter in need of homes. Ask about special spay and neuter prices that may help make adopting your companion more affordable. For details about PAWS services, call 706-867-PAWS.



Lumpkin County . . . continued from reverse side

Be Ready for Emergency

In some types of emergencies, people can be cut off from goods and services for a period of time. For example, if a new flu strain such as the much talked about bird flu were to become widespread around the world, it might become necessary for people to isolate themselves for a time to help prevent it from spreading further. Running out to Wal-Mart or J&J Foods every day to pick up a few things would not be an option. That's why everyone's being urged to prepare now. A disaster supplies kit is a good place to start.

Your kit should include at least these items:

- Extra food and water. Plan for at least two weeks. Don't forget your pets! Foods should be nutritious, ready-to-eat items with long shelf-lives. Plan for one gallon of water per day per person.
- Prescription drugs. Ask your doctor and insurance company if you can get an extra supply.
- Non-prescription medications like pain relievers, cough and cold medicines, stomach remedies, fluids with electrolytes and vitamins.
- Health and hygiene supplies like bleach, tissues, a thermometer, disposable gloves, soap and alcohol-based hand cleaners.

Just imagine what you would need to have on hand if you were stuck at home for several weeks and one or more members of your household were ill. That's what you should be gathering now—just in case. For more details on preparing for disaster and on pandemic flu visit www.redcross.org/news/ds/panflu/ or www.cdc.gov/flu/ or call the Northeast Georgia Chapter, American Red Cross at 800-282-1722



Thanks, R-Ranch

In a great example of a public-private

partnership, local resort R-Ranch in the Mountains for the past 10 years has provided space for Lumpkin County to house a fire truck and related firefighting equipment—at no expense to the county. The arrangement offered fire protection benefits to the resort while positioning the Fire Department to provide more rapid response to the north end of the county, where there was no fire station. The nearby Yahoola Work Center, which Lumpkin County purchased from the U.S. Forestry Service and renovated, now houses the firefighting equipment. Thanks, R-Ranch!

Lumpkin Industries Honored

They provide almost 1,600 jobs worth over \$40 million in payroll checks a year and contribute more than \$900,000 a year to Lumpkin County in the form of property and other taxes.

They are Lumpkin County's manufacturers—makers of a rich variety of products—and they were honored at an industry breakfast in March. The event was cosponsored by The Lumpkin County Development Authority, North Georgia College & State University, the Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority and the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce. Many were surprised to learn of the variety of "Made in Lumpkin County" products, which range from

Made in
Lumpkin
County

Yahoola Work Center Re-worked

When Lumpkin County purchased the U.S. Forest Service's old Yahoola Work Center last year, everyone knew some work would be needed on the main building. But who could have guessed then how much that work would end up costing? With interior renovations now complete, public buildings director Lyman Caldwell puts the grand total for hard costs at \$575—the cost of materials. Labor for the more than 500 man-hour job was essentially free, provided by inmates through an existing



agreement with the Colwell Probation Detention Center in Blairsville. (An annual contract

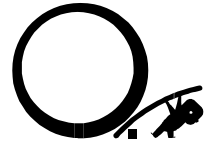
provides a 5-person crew with a guard for 32 hours each week.) With a spiffed up building and a newly drilled well, the Yahoola Work Center is already "working" as the county's Fire Station No. 3, one of several functions it ultimately will serve for northern portions of Lumpkin County.

The Good News Is...

Well, it's all good news these days for Lumpkin County's Fire Station No. 4. The long-awaited facility on Chesterra Road at GA 400 is more than halfway completed, and the first half of the project was the hardest part. The public works department says the facility is on schedule, on budget and expected to come on line in early summer.



carburetors, fuel pumps, roller bearings and switches to carpet yarn, pet beds, and insulated outdoor to custom cabinetry, shutters and portable restrooms.



Working for You!

If you have a problem, question or concern involving your county government, answers and assistance are as close as your phone or computer. For contact information for county departments or commissioners, see Dept. and Contact Info., www.lumpkincounty.gov or call (706) 864-3742.

Board of Commissioners

Steve Gooch, Chairman
Dr. John Raber, District 1
Deborah Hutcheson, District 2
Clarence Stowers, District 3
Clarence Grindle, District 4

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Must Be Something in the Water

Yes, there are lots of "somethings" in the water—even bottled water. Some contaminants result from human and animal activity; many are naturally occurring substances picked up as water travels over land or through the ground. Public water systems work with state and federal agencies to monitor the amounts of these substances in drinking water to ensure public safety. The Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority provides monitoring and testing results for 2006 in just-released annual water quality reports for all the systems it operates. The reports show its customers are enjoying safe, quality drinking water that meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Copies may be picked up at the Water Authority office behind the Courthouse, Annex A, between 8am and 4:30pm weekdays. For details call 706-867-6580.

